Email from 8/6/19



{{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Yeah, we can't believe it either. The Public Service Commission selected a utility-friendly consultant, Pegasus-Global, to handle its next round of cost analysis that could determine your future rates and the 'cost' (price) of clean energy. I'm not sure how they qualify as an independent consultant, as required by law, but I am sure that I hear echoes of the VC Summer debacle - and it sounds like a fox guarding the hen house.

We've taken steps to do something about it, but first, you can <u>read</u> the <u>latest from the Post and Courier here.</u>

You can also catch up on what we've been up to by **reading John's blog here**.

As the saying goes, knowledge is power. We'd like to know how the PSC came to this decision and why there was no justification given to the public. So, we just submitted a request for all information related to the selection of Pegasus on these clean energy proceedings under the Freedom of Information Act, called a FOIA request.

CVSC does not often submit FOIA requests. We reserve the use of this tool for only when absolutely necessary. And we consider it necessary when decisions are being made that will affect the future of solar energy with no public discussion. We asked about the selection process, who participated in these decisions, and how they evaluated the conflicts of interest and qualifications of Pegasus.

The PSC is responsible for implementing the Energy Freedom Act, in which, virtually every section discusses public interest and protecting customers. With billions pulled from the pockets of South Carolinians to pay for a nuclear plant that will never power a *single* light bulb, we expect the Public Service Commission to be transparent and accountable to ratepayers in all of their decisions - which is why we are shedding light on this situation.

Our partners have been busy, too. If you read **the Post and Courier article**, you know they called on the PSC to disqualify Pegasus because of their apparent conflicts of interest. Choosing Pegasus is so bewildering because its CEO served on the Board of SCANA only 6

months ago. As if that weren't already suspicious enough, Duke Energy paid Pegasus \$3 million to defend a multi-billion power plant project in recent years.

We do know there's a meeting set this Wednesday for the PSC to discuss the agreement with Pegasus.

While the agenda doesn't give much more detail than that, the calls from legislators and participants in the case calling for the dismissal of Pegasus are a step in the right direction. We just hope the PSC wakes up and hears the call.

The Public Service Commission and their decisions are shaping up to be more and more influential and we want you to stay in the know. **Sign up** for our exclusive PSC email list and we will send you PSC specific updates bi-weekly, or as soon as important developments (like Wednesday's discussion about the Pegasus contract) come to light.

<u>Sign up for email updates and stay tuned for more information...</u> this story is still developing.

Thanks in advance,

Natalie Olson

Campaigns Director

Stay Connected:







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